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STATE FOR SCA/A - T. REOTT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/24/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [AF](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: CANADA: DUTY OF CARE, ROE'S FOR CIVILIANS ASSIGNED
TO U.S. UNITS IN AFGHANISTAN

Classified By: A/PolMinCouns Kurt van der Walde,
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (U) This is an action request -- see para 5.

12. (C) Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Afghanistan Task Force Deputy Director for Counterinsurgency and Security Niall Cronin made an urgent request to pol/mil officer on June 23 for information on U.S. "duty of care and rules of engagement" with respect to civilians working with and among military operators in Afghanistan. DFAIT needs relevant information from the U.S. as soon as possible, he stressed, because it plans to deploy a civilian liaison officer to the U.S. Stryker Brigade in Regional Command - South (RC-S) in August, and is considering additional assignments of civilian officers to District Stabilization Teams in Spin Boldak and Shah Wali Kot near Kandahar.

13. (C) DFAIT must understand the "protection and life support" Canadians assigned to U.S. military entities should expect from the U.S., and what Canada would be expected to provide, before these personnel deploy, Cronin said. Cronin specified that, in particular, he would appreciate information regarding mobility and movement, access to classified and unclassified communications, force protection, post critical incident evacuation, and whether U.S. military rules of engagement would be modified when U.S. or Canadian civilians participate in missions.

14. (C) Cronin said that most of the information he seeks would have been developed over years of U.S. military and civilian cooperation in Afghanistan, but noted that DFAIT needs access to it to satisfy senior officials that Canadian personnel deployed to work among U.S. forces will have the tools, access, and protection required to succeed in their missions. Getting answers to these questions now will hasten DFAIT's ability to deploy additional personnel to work alongside U.S. military teams now arriving in Kandahar, he emphasized.

15. (C) Action request: Embassy requests Department respond to this request for information on rules of engagement, mobility, communications access, force protection, and post-incident evacuation as soon as possible.

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